



TOWN OF LOS GATOS



SPRING 2006

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

Small Town Service

Community Stewardship

Future Focus

Neighborhood Parks

Have you visited a neighborhood park lately? Los Gatos is fortunate to have so many neighborhood parks and play lots scattered throughout the community – there is a park available for just about any activity. Tennis courts, baseball fields, picnic tables, and hiking trails are just some of the amenities available. For a full list of Los Gatos parks, and information about the features of each park, visit the Town’s website, www.losgatosca.gov, and click on “Living in Los Gatos.”

Several park improvement projects will be completed this year, funded with state grant monies from Proposition 12 – the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. Following are brief descriptions of these upcoming projects:

Los Gatos Creek Trail Wooden Walkway Replacement

This spring, all of the wooden decking on the portion of the Los Gatos Creek Trail that runs between the pedestrian bridge behind Old Town and Miles Avenue will be replaced. This work will require closing that section of trail for a short period of time. Notices will be posted in advance along the trail to notify trail users of the closure, and the detour to nearby streets.

Oak Meadow Park Improvements

This spring and summer, the old bandstand area in Oak Meadow Park will be converted to a large picnic site with tables, benches, and a barbeque pit. A large overhead trellis will be installed

for shade. The design was donated by Paragon Design of Los Gatos, and the Los Gatos Rotary Club donated \$1,000 toward construction of the trellis. In addition, the restroom facility is scheduled for a roof replacement and new interior paint, and additional pathways will be installed to improve access in our most popular park.

Balzar Field Restroom Upgrade

A major upgrade is planned for the restroom and snack shack facility in Balzar Field, located adjacent to the Los Gatos Creek Trail. This aged facility will be removed and replaced with a new, expanded facility. Construction will take place between baseball seasons.

Volunteer Opportunities

Los Gatos has over seven miles of park and open space trails, including those located within parks such as Worcester, La Rinconada, Belgatos, and

See Neighborhoods, page 5

New Town Website

Have you noticed anything different about the Town’s website lately? The website now has a new, attractive look and more user-friendly layout. We encourage you to visit it www.losgatosca.gov, and check out the many new features. Some of the enhancements include a news center and calendar for up-to-date information about Town activities and events, electronic notification subscription services, access to Town Council reports online, and resource and staff directories.

Over time, additional refinements will be made, including more information about Town services and programs, and more online services. We welcome your feedback as we continue to enhance the Town website. You can share your suggestions at www.losgatosca.gov/customerfeedback. We look forward to hearing from you!



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Hometown Advantage

Shop Local Program

Building on the great hometown spirit of Los Gatos, the Town’s Economic Vitality Program has created the *Hometown Advantage* program, which was launched last summer. This program highlights the connection between shopping and dining locally and municipal services.

Shopping and dining locally make a direct, positive impact on our community. Local sales tax revenue provides funding for many of the services residents enjoy – from an extensive parks and trails system to street maintenance. The Town receives just one cent of the 8.25 cents of sales tax per dollar of sales at local establishments, and this sales tax revenue represents 30% of all Town revenue used to provide services to the community.

Many residents patronize Los Gatos businesses on a daily basis, but for all those who may travel elsewhere on occasion, there is a great incentive to go local. The *Hometown Advantage* resident rewards card may be used at participating businesses for either a 10% discount or free gift with purchase. Look for the Hometown Advantage logo near the point-of-purchase at participating businesses.

The *Hometown Advantage* business directory highlights local commercial districts and participating businesses, and includes a comprehensive summer event listing. Both the residents rewards card and business directory will be mailed to all Los Gatos residents in June. More information will be posted as it becomes available on the What’s New! section of the Town website, www.losgatosca.gov.

SUMMER

in Los Gatos

2006 Hometown Advantage Card

There is a Summer for Everyone

News Views

New Trash Services

At its March 14 meeting, the West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority voted to sign a contract with West Valley Collection and Recycling to provide solid waste and recycling collection services beginning March 1, 2007. The Authority is responsible for obtaining solid waste and disposal services for Los Gatos, Campbell, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. West Valley Collection and Recycling is a joint venture of Green Waste Recovery

and GreenTeam of San Jose. West Valley Collection and Recycling will replace Green Valley Disposal Company, a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc., as the local trash hauler.

The new contract will include some changes in the services that Los Gatans receive. One key change, which will aid in managing costs and in improving ease of recycling for residents, will be a move to fully-automated collection of both trash and recyclables. The hauler will provide standardized collection containers to residents for automated collection of trash, recyclables, and yard waste. Residents will be able to choose the size and number of containers they need for their households. In addition, all household recyclables will be collected together in one container, rather than the several small bins that are used currently. For more information, contact the Town's Recycling Coordinator at (408) 399-5796.

Tree Removal and Replacement

The Town's Tree Ordinance requires that every tree removed must have its canopy

replaced, either by replanting a new tree on the same property, or by paying into a fund to have a tree planted elsewhere in Town. If you are considering removing a tree on your property, please call the Town's Parks Program to obtain more information about the tree removal permit and replacement process, at (408) 399-5770. Information is also available on the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov, under "Parks and Forestry."

New Headlight Law

A new state law (AB 1854, Simitian), which became effective July 1, 2005, requires that every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, be operated with headlamps lighted when weather conditions require windshield wipers be in continuous use. Yet many drivers forget to turn their lights on. State Senator Joe Simitian, sponsor of the law, hopes that headlight use will make roads safer. Headlights make it easier for a driver to see nearby cars and for bicyclists and pedestrians to spot oncoming vehicles. Breaking the rule can result in a ticket and fine of up to \$96.

Hurricane Recovery

Los Gatos Adopts Pascagoula, Mississippi

The Los Gatos Town-to-Town Consortium, a partnership of public and private interests, has "adopted" the Mississippi Gulf Coast town of Pascagoula to aid in its coming years of recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The Consortium includes the Town, local service clubs, schools, places of worship, individuals, and other members of the community: all of whom will work to focus resources and extend compassion. Pascagoula is a community of approximately 30,000, and is the county seat of Jackson County.

For more information about the work of the Los Gatos Town-to-Town Consortium, visit its website, www.losgatoskatrina.org. More information about Pascagoula itself is available on the City of Pascagoula website, www.cityofpascagoula.com.



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista
Attn: Community Services Director
PO Box 949
Los Gatos, CA 95031
(408) 354-6820
community@losgatosca.gov

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The recent hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast have dramatically demonstrated the need for citizens and community groups to be prepared to fill the gap between when a natural disaster strikes and the time that it may take for local, state, and federal resources to be brought into play. In a major disaster, public safety agencies can be overwhelmed with critical tasks. The well-being of individuals may be dependent on the degree to which they have prepared themselves and their families for emergencies. The Town's emergency responders are well-trained and regularly conduct disaster response exercises. However, part of successful disaster response includes well-prepared citizens and their ability to help themselves and their neighbors during the initial 72 hours following a major disaster.

The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is currently accepting applications for its September 2006 class sessions. This 22-hour training program is designed to prepare citizens to provide emergency help for themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake, wildfire, flood, hazmat spill, or terrorist act. Residents who participate in CERT training receive instruction in emergency preparedness, fire safety and suppression, disaster medicine and triage techniques, light search and rescue, terrorism response, damage assessment, disaster psychology, and two-way radio communications. Anyone age 16 and older is encouraged to participate in CERT. The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno program boasts graduates from 16 to 85 years of age.

The CERT program was started by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985, and became a national program supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the 1990s. Since that time, local CERT programs have been established in nearly every state in the union, with over 90 CERT programs in California alone. In Santa Clara County, approximately 2000 citizens have received CERT training and are prepared to render aid to their families, neighborhoods, and community in the event of a disaster. Since the program began in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno in 2003, 190 residents have completed the training. The comprehensive course and disaster simulation is held over a two-week period. For more information or to request a registration form call (408) 399-5722, send an e-mail to cert@losgatosca.gov, or visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "Police Services."



A volunteer "victim" allows CERT students to practice first aid skills.



CERT students learn fire suppression skills from professional first responders.

Main Street Improvements Planned

This summer, a series of improvements are planned for Main Street. The most visible will be the streetscape improvements, which will complete the multi-year Streetscape Project. Improvements will include installation of new Villa Hermosa-style sidewalks where needed along Main Street between Santa Cruz and College Avenues, a new traffic signal at the intersection of University Avenue and Main Street, and street paving on Main Street from Santa Cruz Avenue to Loma Alta Avenue. Construction is scheduled for July 10 through August 25. The street is expected to remain open, with temporary lane closures at times. The popular Cat-Struction Cats will appear again this year.

Prior to the streetscape improvements, four other projects will be completed:

Water Pipe Replacement

San Jose Water Company plans to replace some of its very old water valves and pipes on East Main Street, near the bridge over Highway 17. The bulk of this

work will be on the Los Gatos Creek Trail, north and south of the bridge, requiring temporary closure of the trail for several weeks. Some minor work will be performed in the roadway where the old valves are located. SJWC will notify its customers in advance of any potential impact to their water service, and will conduct public outreach including posting signs of the temporary trail closure to notify as many trail users as possible. The work is scheduled for April.

Streetlight Improvements

The streetlight poles along Main Street will be upgraded with new lamps and new paint, so that all the streetlights are uniform and in efficient operating order. The work should have no traffic impacts, as work will be performed on each streetlight in place, at the side of the street. This work is scheduled for May.

Parking Lot 5 Improvements

Public Parking Lot 5, located between Main and Elm Streets, will be paved. It is currently in very poor condition; its

uneven surface causes water pooling and it lacks proper drainage, which can cause pavement damage. Impacts during the work should be minimal. The parking lot will be temporarily closed during this work; however, all shops adjacent to it will remain open. The project is scheduled for the end of May.

Underground Conduit Installation

Communications conduit will be installed under Main Street from Loma Alta Avenue to the Main Street bridge. Work will include trenching about one foot out from the curb and gutter. Parking along the north side of the street will be affected by sections as the work progresses. Additional conduit will be installed for future tree lighting as well.

For More Information

To receive downtown project updates electronically, please send an email to **streetscape@losgatosca.gov**. If you have questions about any of these projects, you may call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5776.

Los Gatos/Monte Sereno CERT Program Graduates

Class of 2003

Alan Aerts	Karen Logan
Mary Bartling	Christine Ludwig
Marc Blaauw	Jim Magill
Judy Blair	Doug McNeil
Losana Blair	Bill Mercer
Nick Border	Vilma Mercer
Gail Bordi	Bob Meyer
Sue Boyd	Sanjay Minocha
Tim Boyd	Rich Moore
Lynda Brown	Dennis Moyano
Tom Campbell	Nick Olson
Roy Chadwick	Eric Otto
Sylvia Chadwick	Margriy Petrofsky
Donna Chiala	Pam Pridemore
Cheryl Choate	John Ramos
Ed Clark	Tom Robb
Donald Coletti	Jackie Rose
Dean Couris	Jennifer Rose
Ryan Cronin	Alex Ruiz
Lydia Davila	Florence Shuster
Ann Davis	Marge Stake
Clare Dudley	Daniel Snyder
Shirley Egan	Karen Trolan
Carol Eichhorn	Steve Trolan
Christy Filice	TJ Trolan
Fran Filice	
Frank Filice	
Sahaj Grewall	
Eric Harris	
Kerry Harris	
Bertram Heyman	
Annabel Holguin	
Samantha Ince	
Fred Irace	
Lyssa Irace	
Norma Irace	
Sheri Irace	
Greg Johansen	
Ford Johnson	
Julie Johnston	
Amelia Kauwelo	
Kalipo Kauwelo	
Derek Koonce	
Chris Kovarik	
Kris Kovarik	
Paul Leavy	
Deborah Ledesma	
Michelle Livoni	

Class of 2004

Bruce Barry
Matthew Brix
Mike Brown
Vishali Brown
Dolly Butler
Frank Butler
Bob Buxton
Peggy Calandri
Michael Chaudoin
John Chiala
Joanne Cutting
Liz Frangadakis
Mike Frangadakis
Bert Fry
Judy Glickman
Cliff Grodin
Melvyn Grossman
Nancy Grossman
Craig Herman
Penny Herman
Tristan Herman
Matthew Holst

Logan Howard	Harriet Kennedy
Merissa Knuth	Babu Kuria
Charlotte Kintzel	Sasha Kusel
Tiffany Ludwig	Barbara Leeson
Edith McCoy	Bob McGrath
David McCreath	Casey Mieuli
Colette Mercer	Alex Nedde
Susan Mercer	Janet Nedde
Marion Michel	Adam Obereiner
Dorothy Miller	Barbara Ott
Catherine Njeri	Vincent Quita
Sumi Panchal	Henry Redmond
Christy Pisciotta	Jill Reed
Maurice Pesciotta	Mike Reed
Donna Quan	Phil Ruhle
Rich Quan	Gary Sanders
Bill Ritt	Mike Sanders
Miriam Robinson	Savid Schnepfer
Cody Salfel	Richard Smith
Judy Saucido	Christine Southard
Dorothy Smith	Darlene Talukder
Charles Spayne	Scott Whitman
Kathy Spayne	Bob Williams
Wilson Strong	Michael Wonnell
Robert Tracy	Keara Wormley
Laura Weilert	
Adam Wonnell	
Rick Yee	
Carol Zimmerman	

Class of 2005

Lee Anton
Bob Barrow
Bob Beane
Nate Beane
Noreen Clarke
Brittany Coletti
Joann Disbrow
Kevin Fama
Bill Flood
Carla Gowdy
Steve Hager
Matt Harris
Garry Holst
Jonny Holst
Roger Hughes
Sam Johnson
Todd Johnson
Travis Kasje

Class of 2006

Darin Bashaw
Bob Booth
Kevin Coffman
Joanne Holiday
Lee Kopp
Hugh Lockhart
Susan McLaughlin
Colleen Murphy
Bev Myers
Frank Myers
Michelle Nelson
Marty Onchina
Lionel Ortega
Jules Robbins
Joe Rodgers
Mary Rose
Sandy Vours
Rob Williams
Jason Witchel
Cindy Wojtasek

Major Capital Improvement Projects

Each year, the Town Council adopts a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, a comprehensive plan designed to develop and maintain the Town's infrastructure. Projects identified in this plan include the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or non-routine maintenance work that generally costs \$25,000 or more and has a minimum useful life of 5 years.

Currently, several large capital improvement projects are underway, in various stages of development. Following are brief descriptions of some of these projects, their current status, and ways to remain informed about their progress.

Roberts Road Bridge

A grant application has been submitted to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for monies to fund the replacement of this bridge. Construction plans will depend on the outcome of this application. In the meantime, the bridge will remain closed to vehicular traffic, but ongoing monitoring of the bridge level will be performed to ensure safety. For more information about the bridge, send an email to **robertsroadbridge@losgatosca.gov** or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

Wedgewood Storm Drain

This project will improve drainage alongside Wedgewood Road, where there is currently an open drainage ditch. Plans include installing underground drainpipe to replace the open ditch, and installing a sidewalk with curb and gutter on top. Due to limited funding, the project scope will encompass Wedgewood Road from Wimbeldon Drive to Mulberry Drive. For more information, send an email to **wedgewoodproject@losgatosca.gov** or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

Highway 9 Safety

This multi-agency safety improvement project is a combined effort of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga, with support from Caltrans. Caltrans has awarded grant funding of \$1.7 million for the design and construction of this project, based on allowable estimated costs as approved by the three local City/Town Councils and as recommended by traffic safety consultants. The Town will be the lead agency managing the design and construction contracts. The project design stage is estimated to continue through the summer of 2007. Construction is anticipated to begin during the fall of 2007. Community meetings have been held, and more will be held during the design and construction phases, to update community members on the progress of the project, and to provide an opportunity for identifying questions or concerns. For more information, send an email to **hiway9safety@losgatosca.gov** or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

Celebrating 100 Years of Children’s Services

Los Gatos Public Library • 1906–2006

On September 14, 1901, Southern Pacific Railroad station agent E. L. Ford sat down, dipped his pen in the inkwell, and composed a letter to Andrew Carnegie, requesting money for a library

building in Los Gatos. The philanthropist promptly replied that he would be glad to provide \$10,000 for a free library building in Los Gatos, “provided that the town gives a suitable site and pledges itself to support the library at cost of not less than \$1000 a year.”

The doors of the new Carnegie Library at 14 University Avenue opened to the public on September 25, 1903. In preparation for the opening, a Board of Library Trustees had been appointed: John W. Lyndon, B. P. Shuler, R. R. Bell, D. C. Crummey, and W. H. B. Trantham. Of this original group, Judge R. R. Bell was to serve for thirty-two years, a term which ended only with his death in 1935.

Town librarian Bessie Cooper, 24 years old, died suddenly on March 31, 1904. The Library Board passed a resolution: “It is deemed proper that we place on record our appreciation of her services and her gentle Christian character.” Miss Henrianna A. Rankin, a graduate of Los Gatos High School, was her successor, and she served as town librarian until 1909.

The new library was a treasured addition to the young town of Los

Gatos. Thousands of “postals,” today’s postcards, were printed with a photograph of the new building. An early town ordinance expressly forbade spitting tobacco juice on the library floor, stealing materials, or using profane language in addressing the librarian.

Despite the town’s rules, some problems occurred. In June 1906, a local newspaper reported that someone had taken a copy of *The Road of a Thousand Wonders* from one of the tables in the library. The newspaper editor noted that this volume would not be an easy one to replace, as the company that published it had burned down as a result of the April 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. Additionally, Miss Rankin was sorry to report that she had to discontinue allowing the *Ladies Home Journal* to be taken out by subscribers, because copies had been returned with the fashion plates cut out.

The Library Board did not want the public to cut items from library materials, but apparently felt free to do so themselves. The newspaper comics were often censored in that manner by the Board. And sometime in the library’s early history, the archive of newspapers from the year 1883 disappeared. When the back copies were microfilmed in the 1950’s, nearly all of the newspapers dating from the earliest in 1881 were accounted for and filmed. The exception was the 1883 run, which would have recorded a particularly violent year in the little western town. A woman was stabbed to death on Main Street by her former husband. A Los Gatos saloon keeper and his two accomplices tortured and murdered two innocent men in their cabin just south of town. Two of the murderers were tried and hung, and the third went to San Quentin where he was killed by another inmate. And on Sunday afternoon, June 17, 1883, a young Californio man named Incarnacion Garcia was lynched, hung from the Main Street Bridge by a local vigilance committee, seeking “even and exact justice without cost to the county.”

Public libraries did not welcome children in the early days, but Miss Rankin felt that should change after she took office in 1904. Although the Carnegie Library building consisted of only one large room, the young librarian in time carved out some space for a “Children’s Corner.” She also instituted the “Children’s Hour,” when every Friday afternoon the children were read to for an hour. In 1906, an official from the California State Library was so impressed with these new services that a photographer was sent to Los Gatos to take a picture which appeared in the *State Library Bulletin*.

In 2006, the library still fosters an interest in reading and learning and supports the town’s students. In a tradition now 100 years old, we strive to create a welcoming environment for children, one which encourages their curiosity, imagination, creativity, and a permanent love of reading. A century of service to the children of Los Gatos has undoubtedly changed and enhanced the lives of many young people.



Carnegie Library Children’s Corner, 1906

Children’s Library Spring Program Series

This spring and summer, the library is hosting lots of fun programs for kids and their families. All programs will be held at the library, 110 East Main Street. No advance reservation is required. For more information about these programs, call the library at (408) 354-6891 or visit the library’s website at library.losgatosca.gov, and click on “Kids’ Page.” Please help the library to offer satisfying programs for children by honoring the suggested age range for each event.

Family Night

Thursday, May 18, 6:45 pm
For ages 0 to 6.
Sing-along music from around the world with Julie Wong.

Summer Reading Kick-off Party

Thursday, June 1, 3:30 pm
All ages welcome.
Summer Reading Club kick-off party with Magician Gerald Joseph.

Storytime Schedule

Toddler storytime (for ages 2-3)

Mondays, 10:30 am

Preschool storytime (for ages 3-5)

Tuesdays, 10:30 am

Teens Read to Kids (all ages welcome)

Thursdays, 3:30 pm

Mother Goose storytime (for ages 0-2)

Fridays, 10:30 am

Books Together (all ages welcome)

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 3-5 pm

Summer Programs

Don’t forget to check out summertime events at the library. Look for information on the annual Summer Reading Club for Kids and Teens, Summer Programs for Kids and Teens, and Book Clubs for Kids. Visit the library’s website at library.losgatosca.gov, and click on “Kids’ Page.”



The library is a popular gathering place for kids and their families.

Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is known by its regulars as a gathering place for local seniors, a spot to socialize with old friends and to make new ones, a frequent starting point for planned trips and activities, and the scene of many parties and events. But local seniors and their loved ones should also know that the Senior Center is a well-rounded service provider that seeks to achieve for its customers wellness and autonomy through advocacy, communication, education, socialization, identification of service resources, and service facilitation. Some of the services and activities available through the Senior Center include:

Case Management Services

Case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's mental and physical health needs through communication and effective utilization of available resources. The Senior Center has a trained case manager available to meet with you and your family, at no cost to you, who can make a needs assessment and help with finding ways to meet those needs. The case manager often helps families with issues like finding appropriate social service agencies, completing the complicated applications required to receive social services, learning about seniors' financial options, and assisting seniors to age in place as appropriate.

Summer Activities

A wide variety of social activities will be held during the summer, including the Annual Senior Picnic, the Summer Dance, and a casino bus trip. It is vitally important for seniors to maintain social contacts as they age; these social interactions are crucial for maintaining mental health and fighting the isolation that often afflicts seniors. For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "Living in Los Gatos."

Wednesday Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1 pm. Admission and snacks are free! A huge big-screen television was donated to the movie program, so that you can enjoy all your favorite actors at close to life-size! Join other film buffs and enjoy this fun afternoon activity.



Summer Fun

Music in the Park
Sundays, June 25 through August 27
5 to 7 pm

Civic Center Lawn
110 East Main Street



Los Gatans in the know, know that the best entertainment deal in town is the annual Music in the Park free concert series. Bring your children, your friends, and a picnic dinner, and spend a warm summer evening outside enjoying great music. This year's series will run from June 25 to August 27 (no concert August 13), with concerts each Sunday evening from 5 to 7 pm. A special concert will be held July 4, as part of the Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July event (see below). For an updated listing of concert bands, visit the Town website at www.losgatosca.gov/mip. Music in the Park is produced by the Los Gatos Arts Commission and is funded by local business and citizen contributions.

Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July
Tuesday, July 4
11 am to 8:30 pm

Civic Center Lawn
110 East Main Street

Los Gatos High School Lawn
235 East Main Street

Celebrate Independence Day at this all day event, the sixth annual Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July. The focus is on fun for the whole family, the whole day long! The day will begin with a picnic and games on the Civic Center lawn. At 1:30 pm a special Music in the Park concert will be held on the Los

Gatos High School lawn, featuring the San Jose Wind Symphony's presentation of patriotic selections, including real cannon fire, and many "pops" concert favorites. Next will be a free cake and ice cream social and an old fashioned sing-along at the Civic Center. Then, bingo and lemonade will be followed by a delicious BBQ dinner. The day will wrap up with a second concert, featuring The Hit Men, at 6 pm. You won't want to miss this down-home, community celebration.

Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival
Weekends, July 14 through August 5
8 pm

Oak Meadow Park
233 Blossom Hill Road



Enjoy outdoor theatrical presentations by the Festival Theatre Ensemble, held under the stars at Oak Meadow Park. The 2006 festival schedule includes *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *The Lion in Winter*. For information about performance dates and ticket prices call the Festival Theatre Ensemble at (408) 996-0635, or visit its website at www.festivaltheatreensemble.org.

Screen on the Green
Friday, September 29
Dusk

Oak Meadow Park
233 Blossom Hill Road

Screen on the Green is a free, outdoor showing of a family movie at Oak Meadow Park on a Friday evening. This year, Screen on the Green will present the 1963 classic *Bye Bye Birdie*, featuring Janet Leigh, Dick Van Dyke, and Ann-Margret. Come and enjoy this nostalgic look at small-town America, including great songs like "What's the Matter with Kids Today." For more information, visit the Town website, www.losgatosca.gov.

Neighborhoods

Continued from page 1

Novitiate; Los Gatos Creek Trail; and the neighborhood El Monte and Fairview Pathways. Groups have adopted sections of these trails to conduct one-time or ongoing clean-up efforts. We can always use more help to keep our local trails beautiful. If you or your group is interested in becoming an adopter, please call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5776 or send an email to parks@losgatosca.gov. Information about other trail maintenance and beautification projects is available on the Community Unity website, www.losgatosca.gov/cu.

For More Information

For more information about your neighborhood parks, or about any of the parks improvement projects, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770, or send an email to parks@losgatosca.gov.

The old bandstand area in Oak Meadow Park, soon to be replaced with a picnic area.



Focus on the Environment

One part of what makes Los Gatos such a special place is its unique physical environment. It is nestled at the base of the Sierra Azules in the southwestern portion of Santa Clara County, where the Santa Clara Valley meets the lower slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Los Gatos encompasses a wide variety of terrain, ranging from flat topography at the edge of the valley floor to densely wooded hillsides. Both the valley and hillsides are interspersed with creeks, streams, and riparian habitat.

Local residents value Los Gatos’s unique environment. The Town organization takes seriously its responsibility for community stewardship. Following are some things you may not know about our key programs and accomplishments in the environmental arena.

April is “Keep Los Gatos Beautiful” Month

April is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Month! Each April, the Town sponsors a series of events and programs to celebrate National Earth Day, National Arbor Day, and National Volunteer Recognition Week, all of which occur in the month of April. Celebrating these events gives the Town an opportunity to educate residents about the importance of protecting, restoring, and preserving our local environment, and it also provides an opportunity to celebrate volunteerism, which plays such a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of life in Los Gatos.



A great way to celebrate Keep Los Gatos Beautiful month - throughout the year - is to participate in Santa Clara County’s awareness campaign to reduce and reuse grocery bags. According to the Stanford Recycling Center, the best answer to the question, “Paper or plastic?” is “Neither:”

Q: Which is better, paper bags or plastic bags?

A: Paper bags are theoretically biodegradable, but hardly any degradation takes place in a dry, modern landfill. Paper bags are recyclable, and are made with a renewable resource, but sometimes they can make carrying groceries difficult. Plastic bags can be recycled, and make it easier to carry groceries, but they are not made of a renewable resource. Re-use of whatever shopping bags you use is a good solution, but the best is to use a reusable canvas bag or no bag at all.

Reduce Your Use of Grocery Bags

Reduce your dependence on paper or plastic grocery bags by not using them when you shop. Take a cloth bag to the store instead, and keep it in your car for future trips. Durable reusable bags are sold at supermarkets and other stores all over Santa Clara County, and online. And, think outside the bag - backpacks, purses, and handbags are multi-functional and can often hold several small purchased items. When you are buying just one or two small items, think “Do I really need a bag?”

Reuse Grocery Bags

Use bags over and over again when you shop. Every time you reuse a bag you double the environmental savings: you save the bag you reused from going to a landfill, and you save a new one from needing to be used. Consider leaving a few grocery bags in your car so that they will always be available to reuse.

Keep Los Gatos Beautiful activities are sponsored by the Town, and are funded in part through a state beverage container grant. For more information about specific projects, or to volunteer your time, contact Recycling Coordinator Lauren Mende Tacké at (408) 399-5796, or via email at ltacke@losgatosca.gov. You can also find information about “Keep Los Gatos Beautiful “ on the Town’s website, www.losgatosca.gov/keeplosgatosbeautiful.

Energy

All of the red and green traffic lights in Town, and the majority of pedestrian signals and yellow traffic lights, use light emitting diodes (LEDs) instead of traditional incandescent lights. LEDs use about 10% to 20% of the energy of an incandescent bulb, reducing energy costs; and last about five times as long, reducing replacement costs.

The Town is one of four cities in Santa Clara County participating in the Silicon Valley Energy Collaborative. Services offered through the program include public education about energy savings potential, energy audits and energy design assistance for municipal facilities and large commercial centers, installation of energy-efficient products for small businesses, and a “cool roofs” incentive program.

Building and Development

The Town’s Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines, adopted in 2004, contain voluntary green building standards for new construction. These standards include:

- Siting and design of a structure should take maximum advantage of passive solar heating, natural cooling, and natural light.
- Landscaping should be used to control exposure to sun and wind.
- Building materials should be selected which reduce the consumption of natural resources and are non-toxic. This includes the use of salvaged or reused building materials.

Solar heat, as an alternative energy source, is encouraged by Town development regulations. For example, for about 20 years the Town has required that all new homes be pre-plumbed for solar water heaters and that solar be used as the primary means of heating swimming pools. To date, the Town has approved more than 1,000 solar panel systems on residential and commercial structures.

Water

The Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance was adopted by the Town Council in 1992 to promote conservation and efficient use of water. All new commercial developments and residential developments of five or more units are subject to this ordinance, which requires developers to calculate the water allowance permitted for the site and estimated water usage. The ordinance encourages the use of recycled water irrigation.

In partnership with the West Valley Clean Water Program, the Town sponsored a recycling event at which any West Valley resident, business, or school could drop off old televisions, computer monitors, and laptop computers. These appliances can leach toxic metals, such as lead, mercury, and copper, into our local waterways.

Earth

April is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Month. Each April, the Town sponsors a series of events and programs to celebrate National Earth Day, National Arbor Day, and National Volunteer Recognition Week. Past events have included a mercury

thermometer exchange, tree plantings, and the Bicycle Rewards Program.

In FY 2004/05, the Town reached a milestone by receiving the distinguished Tree City USA award for the 25th consecutive year. The Tree City USA award is conferred by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service. In order to receive the award, a community must have the following: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Waste and Recycling

The Town Code requires developers to provide an opportunity for the public to salvage building materials from demolished structures. Developers must advertise in a newspaper when the structure is available for salvaging. All wood, metal, glass, and aluminum materials generated from a demolished structure must be recycled.

Through the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program, Los Gatos residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste for free. In FY 2004/05, 942 Los Gatos households participated in the program. The Town provides funds to the program on an annual basis to ensure that all Los Gatans who wish to may participate.

Los Gatos has maintained compliance with the state’s solid waste diversion requirements, also known as AB939, and has had its diversion rate certified each year by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. In 2002, the most recent year to be certified by the Board, Los Gatos diverted 57% of its solid waste from landfill disposal.

Air

Town Ordinance No. 1905, the Wood Burning Ordinance, restricts the sale and use of fireplaces and other wood-burning appliances that do not meet federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. According to the EPA, residential wood burning contributes significantly to particulate air pollution.

The Town, in partnership with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, helps to reduce auto emissions by participating in the Bicycle Rewards Program. The program rewards residents for replacing car trips with bicycle trips, with gift certificates for public transit passes and bicycle equipment.

Town street sweeping equipment is certified compliant with Rule 1186 requirements for PM₁₀-efficient sweepers. This certification ensures that the street sweepers will pick up particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less from the roadway; the goal is to reduce contribution to particulate air pollution. The standard was established for Southern California municipalities, and has not yet been required of Bay Area communities, but the Town has voluntarily adopted this more stringent standard.

Annual Community Garage Sale

This year's Community Garage Sale will be held Saturday, June 3, from 9 am to 3 pm. More than 300 garage sales will be held at once, making it a shoppers' paradise!

How does the Community Garage Sale work?

Residents of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and the unincorporated areas of the two cities register to hold garage sales at their homes, or join with neighbors to hold block sales. The Town promotes all registered sales through press releases, newspaper and radio ads, flyers, and posters. Then, residents hold their garage sales on June 3. You choose the spot, we buy the ads, you keep the cash – it's that easy!

How do I sign up?

To register or to learn more about the Community Garage Sale, call the Town's Recycling Coordinator at (408) 399-5796. Or, visit the Town website, **www.logosca.gov/communitygaragesale**. Online registration is now available, and registration is free. The deadline to register is May 18.

If you have any unsalable items to dispose of after your sale, the Spring Cleanup trash pickup will be held during the weeks following the Community Garage Sale. Green Valley Disposal Company will provide the details in their Spring Cleanup flyer, arriving soon in your mailbox.

What if I just want to shop?

If you'd like to shop all the garage sales, look for the sale location map in the May 31 edition of the *Los Gatos Weekly Times*. For more detailed information on sale addresses, cross streets, and items for sale, pick up a copy of



the “Shoppers Guide,” available at a variety of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno locations beginning May 31. A list of sale addresses will also be available on the Town website, **www.losgatosca.gov/communitygaragesale**.

This annual event is a partnership between the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Monte Sereno, and the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Program. It is a great way of bringing solid waste and recycling issues right into people's homes, with an emphasis on reuse and giving rather than throwing away.

Colon Cancer Screening

Colon cancer is more than 90% preventable. Regular screening can help to prevent colon cancer by removing polyps before they become cancerous and by detecting colon cancer in its early stages. If everybody age 50 and older had regular screening tests, at least one-third of deaths from this cancer could be avoided. And this cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

There are several different screening tests that can be used to find polyps or colon cancer. Your doctor will talk with you about which test is right for you and how often you should be tested. Many insurance plans and Medicare help pay for colon cancer screening tests. Because colon cancer is highly preventable, the American Cancer Society is undertaking a major information campaign to make the public aware of the importance of the screening tests. You can find more information about colon cancer screening at **www.cancer.org**.

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Talk Back...

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Return to: Town Manager, Town of Los Gatos, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA, 95031/Fax to: (408) 354-8431/Email to: manager@losqatosca.gov.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Mondays	10:30 am	Toddler Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Tuesdays	10:30 am	Pre-School Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Thursdays	3:30 pm	Teens Read to Kids	Library	(408) 354-6891
Fridays	10:30 am	Mother Goose Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays				
April 30	8:30 am to 1 pm	Thermometer Exchange	Town Plaza Park	(408) 399-5796
May 5	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
May 18	6:45 pm	Family Night	Library	(408) 354-6891
May 24	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
June 1	3:30 pm	Summer Reading Kick-off	Library	(408) 354-6891
June 3	9 am to 3 pm	Community Garage Sale	Town-wide	(408) 399-5796
June 25	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
June 28	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Cente	(408) 354-1514
July 2	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 4	11 am to 8:30 pm	Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July	Civic Center, LGHS	(408) 354-6820
July 7	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
July 9	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 14 – August 5	8 pm	Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival	Oak Meadow Park	(408) 996-0635
July 16	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 23	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 2	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
July 30	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 6	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 20	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 23	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
August 27	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Par	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
September 15	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
September 27	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
September 29	dusk	Screen on the Green	Oak Meadow Park	(408) 354-6834

For a complete calendar of Town events, visit the Town website at www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "Calendar of Town Events."



OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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